

Coins

Fans plant mint sets for a future harvest

By Roger Boye

THOUSANDS OF United States proof and mint sets are being salted away for future generations, judging from the results of a survey of its customers the U.S. Mint conducted.

More than two-fifths of the persons answering the mint's questions said they purchased the sets to save for their children and grandchildren. "An investment?" was the second most popular reason for buying the sets.

On another question, three-fourths of the respondents rated the quality of coins in the sets as either "excellent" or "above average."

More than 5,400 persons on the mint's mailing list of 2.5 million customers were mailed questionnaires. Responses were received from about 2,500 persons.

The survey indicated that the majority of persons who buy the sets have some college education, are at least 36 years old, and have an annual income of \$10,000 or more.

LAST YEAR'S all-foreign coin fair in Chicago so impressed the editors of a coin newspaper that they later called the annual show one of the top three world coin events in the United States.

Such an accolade was no little accomplishment for the show's organiz-

ers, especially since the Chicago International Coin Fair was then only in its second year. More than 2,900 persons attended, and business was brisk.

Now the organizers are hoping that this year's third annual fair will live up to rather high expectations. The show, which is open to the public, will be held March 10, 11, and 12 at the Holiday Inn — O'Hare/Kennedy, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont.

"We hope the location near O'Hare will be more accessible than the downtown hotel we used last year," said James Simek of the Rare Coin Co. of America in Chicago, the show's main sponsor. Other sponsors are the Organization of International Numismatists (OIN) and several Chicago-area coin clubs.

Some 95 United States and foreign dealers (11 more than last year) will be on hand to sell foreign coins, which will range in price from a few cents to thousands of dollars.

The show also will include an "educational forum" at 3 p.m. March 11. One of the speakers will be Byron Johnson, immediate past president of OIN, who will talk on "Playing With Coins — Common Cents Collecting," Simek said.

A foreign coin auction will be conducted by Jess Peters, Inc. of Decatur in three sessions beginning at 7 p.m. March 10, and 1 and 7 p.m. March 11.